GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4843
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
PROGRAMME FOR OVERSEAS INDIAN LABOURERS
PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any new programme in the interest of the Indian labourers living abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that recruitment of labour to overseas countries takes place without the knowledge or approval of any Government agency because of which the workers are forced to toil in adverse working conditions for every low wages;

(d) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by the Government to check this;

(e) whether the Government is prepared to completely revamp and convert the office of the Protector General of Emigrantsinto a full fledged agency to address all the issues concerning the welfare of overseas contract workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): The provisions in the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder are considered adequate for safeguarding the interests of the Indian workers deployed by the foreign companies. In the event of there being any problem, immediate action is taken to redress the grievances of the workers by taking up the matter with the concerned Indian Mission and the local registered recruiting agents.

(c) & (d): Under the Emigration Act, 1983, a foreign employer can make recruitment of Indian workers either directly after obtaining a permit from the competent authority or through a registered recruiting agent by sending a power of attorney and demand letter. Recruitment of Indian workers for overseas deployment without a registration certificate or a permit is a cognizable offence. As and when such cases come to the notice of the Government, the same are handed over to the police authorities for taking necessary action.

(e) & (f): The existing arrangements are considered adequate.